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SYMINGTON

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Budget Seen Security Threat By Symington

By HOWARD HORTON

(Washington Bureau of The Sun)

Washington, Jan. 27—Senator Symington (D., Mo.) today accused the Administration of jeopardizing the nation's security by its efforts to balance the budget.

In a speech in the Senate, the Democratic Presidential hopeful charged, specifically, that intelligence on Russia's actual strength has been "juggled" to make the threat look smaller, and thus open the way for lower American military expenditures.

Symington leveled his attack at what he called the "new policy" of the Defense Department—the policy of comparing "Soviet intent in the intercontinental ballistic missile field as against our ICBM schedules."

"Trail Of Insecurity"

The Senator pointed out that previously Soviet capabilities had been used as the measure of Russian strength.

And he said that the sudden shift to "intent" has resulted in a "downgrading" of Soviet missile strength by as much as 50 per cent in some categories.

"The American people are being enticed down the trail of insecurity by the issuance of misinformation about our deterrent power; and specifically about the missile gap," he declared.

"The intelligence books have been juggled so the budget books may be balanced."

"Unwarranted Risk"

Symington charged that "this policy of misinformation" has brought down upon our country an "unwarranted risk."

The Missouri Senator accused even Allen Dulles, head of the supersecret Central Intelligence Agency, of going along with the

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Administration policy of underrating the Russians.

Symington told the Senate that he had talked privately both with Dulles and with President Eisenhower, and had given them both information that led him to believe they were underrating Soviet strength.

But he noted that both Dulles and the President persisted in sticking to their previous estimates which Symington insisted were far below the actual situation.

Symington recalled that a year ago the then Secretary of Defense, Neil H. McElroy, had reported to Congress that there was a three-to-one missile gap between the Soviet Union and the United States.

That estimate, Symington pointed out, was based on Soviet capabilities—not Soviet intent.

But now, "under the new theory," the Secretary of the Air Force (Dudley C. Sharp) thinks there may be no gap at all," Symington said.

"Of course," he said, "from a budgetary point of view this shift in policy is less expensive than would be a decision to accelerate our own ICBM program."

Makes Another Charge

He accused the Administration also of downgrading the quality of Soviet missiles, and the advantages enjoyed by the Russians because of their missiles' greater range.

He recalled that President Eisenhower, in his State-of-the-Union message, said, "Our military missile programs . . . do not suffer from any present lack of very large rocket engines. . . . The thrust of our present missiles is fully adequate for defense requirements."

And he noted that Thomas S. Gates, Secretary of Defense, said virtually the same thing when he testified last week before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Without revealing the specifics of classified testimony, it is important to bring out that the destructive payload attributed to Soviet ICBM's, as well as the range of such weapons, is far greater than in our missiles," Symington told the Senate.

"Therefore," he concluded, "I charge this Administration with using intelligence information in such a manner that the American people have been given an inaccurate picture of what is necessary for our national defense. . . ."